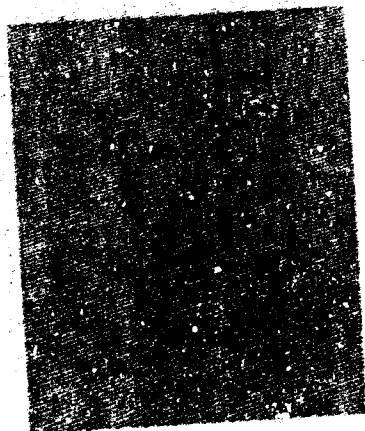


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Technical Report

AD 640 102

MECHANIZATION STUDY  
OF THE  
ARMY BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES  
TECHNICAL LIBRARY  
FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND

Submitted to

Defense Supply Agency  
Defense Documentation Center  
Cameron Station, Virginia


by

Booz, Allen Applied Research Inc.  
4733 Bethesda Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

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September 1966



BOOZ-ALLEN APPLIED RESEARCH INC.

WASHINGTON  
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## A B S T R A C T

The Technical Information Division of the U. S. Army Biological Laboratories has three mechanized programs: Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), Serials Processing System, and Retrospective Search File. The SDI Program uses magnetic tapes from the National Library of Medicine to generate monthly lists of journals and monographs that match the interest profiles of participating scientists. The Serials Processing System provides a list of the journal holdings for periodical control. The Retrospective Search File of about 8,000 document records is used for bibliographic searches, for inventory control, and to produce book catalogs and accession lists. Input to this file is confined to Fort Detrick and contractor reports. All three program systems are run on the UNIVAC SS-II computer. A new unit record, comparable to DDC's record, is planned for the Retrospective Search File. The SDI Program is expected to grow to about 350 participants, and information from Biological Abstracts and similar publications will be added to the input citation files.

I.

II.

III.

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## I. SUMMARY

The Technical Information Division at Fort Detrick has three mechanized programs: Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), Serials Processing System, and Retrospective Search File. The SDI program uses magnetic tapes from the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to generate monthly lists of journals and monographs that match the interest profiles of each of 40 participating scientists. The Serials Processing System provides a list of the journal holdings for periodical control (check-in, routing, renewal, etc.) The Retrospective Search File, which currently contains about 8,000 document records indexed by accession number and subject word descriptors, will be used to perform information search and retrieval, inventory control and to produce accessions lists and book catalogs. All three systems use specially developed programs that are run on a UNIVAC SS-II-90 computer.

Appendix A indicates the position of the Technical Information Division within the U. S. Army Biological Laboratories at Fort Detrick. The Division serves approximately 2,500 personnel at Fort Detrick; thirty percent are scientists and engineers who represent the primary user population. The collection consists of about 50,000 books, 1,100 periodical titles, and 47,000 documents (including laboratory notebooks)

with an annual growth of 1,200, 150, and 5,600, respectively. The collection is primarily in the fields of biological and medical sciences, with agriculture, chemistry, military sciences, and atmospheric sciences following in order of importance. These five subject groups account for 61 percent of the books and periodicals and 78 percent of the documents.

All of the materials are now in hard copy, but it is anticipated that microform will be introduced in approximately two years. A typical month's circulation is about 2,200 books and periodicals and 590 documents.

All of the book processes are manual although the ordering of books is expected to be mechanized in FY 1967. A Flexowriter is used to produce catalog cards for documents that are now indexed with subject terms from a thesaurus developed by General Electric. These subject terms are also being used in indexing the documents for the development of the Retrospective Search File. About 25 percent of the document collection has been descriptive-cataloged by a contractor and has been filed in the computer on magnetic tape.

## II. MECHANIZATION

### 1. CHRONOLOGY

In January 1962, formulation of a Retrospective Search File began with discussions concerning the handling of technical documents. The purpose of the discussions was to find ways of improving the services offered by the Technical Information Division. As a result of these discussions, an ad hoc committee was convened consisting of five experts in information retrieval who were concerned with the retrieval program at Fort Detrick.

In June of the same year, the document "The Biological Laboratories Information Retrieval Program" (AD#277544) was published by this ad hoc committee. This document discussed the problems, facilities, and work of Fort Detrick and presented comments on these by the five committee members.

The task of creating the thesaurus and cataloging the document file was contracted out. In June 1963, the first progress report was issued describing the initial efforts at cataloging Fort Detrick's document file.

In November 1963, staff members from the Information Division and the Biomathematics Division visited the libraries at Redstone,

Picatinny, General Electric, and other locations to observe existing mechanized techniques.

In mid-1963, the "STINFO File Maintenance" document was issued describing the techniques to be used in creating a mechanized retrospective search system.

In the fall of 1964, contract was let for the development of the SDI and Serials Processing System programs. In May of the following year, contractor delivered the SDI and Serials Processing programs and evaluation of these began.

All three program systems were subjected to an extensive evaluation in the summer of 1965, and that fall, all three programs entered the operational phase.

## 2. SDI PROCESSING

A machine-readable magnetic tape, known as the Retrieved Citation File (RCF), is received monthly from the NLM's Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (MEDLARS) identifying the month's yield of U S. and foreign-produced journals and monographs indexed with appropriate medical subject headings. In addition, another tape of Medical Subject Headings (MESH) is received annually from NLM which is a machine-readable thesaurus of subject tags. These two

tapes are combined in the computer with a locally produced tape of participants' interest tags, and a printout of selected journal citations results for each individual. Figure 1 illustrates the logical flow of the overall SDI system and the following is a detailed description.

(1) Input Procedures

1. Participant submits his interest profile which consists of his name, address, up to 10 languages of interest, and any number of interests using up to 400 medical subject tags to describe an interest. This may be updated at any time with additions, changes, or deletions. In order to refine the participant's interest profile so that a useful selection of citations can result from it, the Information Division spends a considerable amount of time in personal conference with the individual and in keeping records of what notifications he received, what he wanted, and why.

2. The participant's profile is punched on four EAM cards, one each for name, address, language, and interest. The format for these Profile Action Cards is given in Appendix B-1. A description of these cards is given in Appendix B-2.

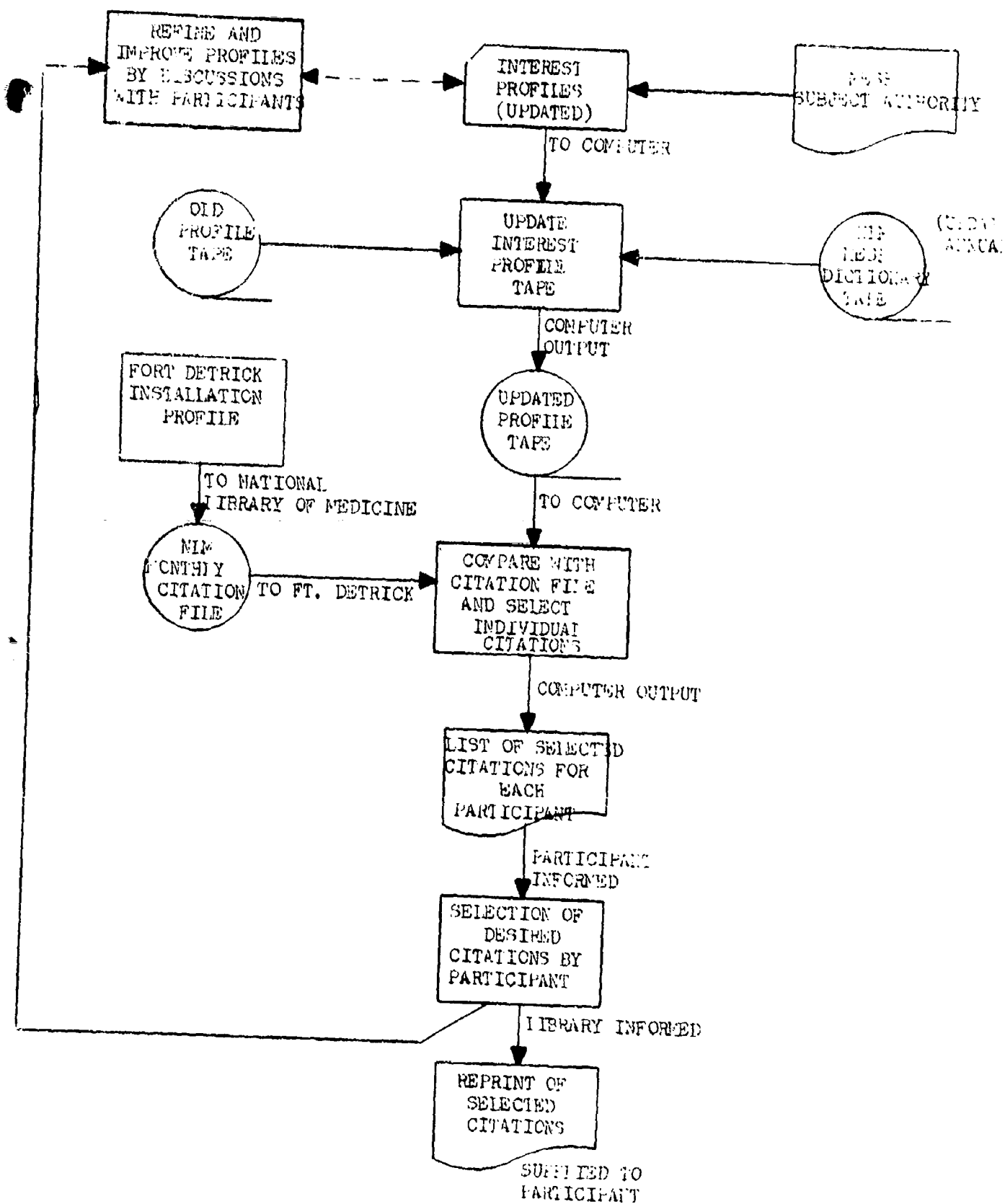


FIGURE 1

Selective Dissemination of Information  
System at Fort Detrick

3. EAM card information is applied in the computer to update the cumulative Interest Profile Tape File of all participants. A printed profile status report indicating participants' response to selected citation notifications results at this point as part of the updated profiles.

4. Profile interest tags of all participants are then run with the MEDLARS MESH tape to code and reformat the profile tags according to MESH.

5. The reformatted interest tags are then run with the Retrieved Citation File tape, and a printout on a dual 3 x 5 notification card of selected citations for each participant is made. Citations will be selected based on the weight method. This method uses "weight" numbers for each of the participant's selected interest tags. In a citation descriptor tag-profile interest tag match, the pre-assigned weights of the matched tags are added up. If the sum equals or exceeds 10, a program constant, then the citation is listed for the individual's attention. Certain tags may be listed as MUST or NOT, and in this case, the indicated action is taken without regard for weight. If a

match is found and the tag is a MUST, the citation will be selected regardless of weights or percent of matches. If a match is found and the tag is a NOT, the citation will be bypassed. The NOT operation overrides all other considerations including the MUST.

Formerly the MAY method was also a selection option, but it is no longer used because of its relatively poor discrimination. The MAY method determines the citation descriptor tag - interest profile tag matches as a percent of either the total number of descriptor tags per document or profile tags per individual, whichever is less, and compares this percentage to a percentage factor predetermined by the participant. If a percent figure higher than this factor results, then the citation is listed for the participant's attention. Once a citation has been selected on the basis of a particular interest it will not be matched against any other interests for the same participant. Thus the notification cannot be selected twice. (If a participant's entire profile contains in excess of 400 tags, it is possible to make more than one selection of a citation since in this case the program would make a second search of the citation file and would not keep track of citations selected during

the first search). If it happens that a citation does meet the selection criteria for more than one interest of a participant, only the tags of the interest causing selection will appear on the notification card.

(2) Outputs

1. Interest Profile Status Report

This output is produced when a participant's interest profile is updated. As shown in Appendix B-3, it identifies the participant and lists his language, interest number, interest tag numbers, weight, and tag words.

2. Notification Form

Selected citations are printed on the notification form shown in Appendix B-4. Each citation is listed with the identification of the participant and the tags that caused its selection. This form is sent to the participant for his perusal and selection of desired items. He returns part of the form to the Information Division indicating his interest in each citation.

3. SDI Statistics

This output is a compilation of a participant's number of notifications, responses, and type of response in both this

period and last. It is used to assist in the improvement of the interest profile and to keep track of the effectiveness of the system. An example of the form is shown in Appendix B-5.

### 3. SERIALS PROCESSING SYSTEM

The Serials Processing System maintains a master file of serial holdings. Working with the master file, the program supplies the Information Division with requisition and control tools for the collection. Records are updated, added to, or deleted monthly or otherwise as required.

#### (1) Inputs

##### 1. Transaction Cards

For each serial to be entered into the system, six EAM punched cards called transaction cards are prepared. The format for the six cards is given in Appendix C-1.

The six cards are linked together by a unique title code that fills the first five columns of each card. All five characters of this code are based on the alphabetic sequence of the serial title. The only card necessary to generate a basic serial record is a Number 1 card. The

remaining five cards are used to supply information for the record, depending on the amount of information desired or available. A record used as cross-reference needs only a number 1 and a number 5 card. When completed, these cards may be submitted in any order in a normal updating procedure.

A complete record may be removed from the computer master file by submitting a number 1 card with the title field blank. All frequencies have a unique, four-digit code that is punched in columns 46-49 on card number 4. A binary number system is used to reduce three-digit numbers to one digit. This allows any combination of monthly delivery to be converted to a four-digit number.

Weeklies have "80" in the first two positions with the date of the first issue of the current month in the last two positions.\* Biweeklies have "81" in the first two positions and the date of the current month's first issue in the last two positions. Semi-monthlies have "8200" for a frequency code. Issues that are not under card control are "3300." Serials with an unknown frequency or with a publication less than once a year are "9000."

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\* For example: A weekly that is to be entered in May 1965 and is issued on Monday would have 8003 for a frequency code.

2. Date Cards

For the computer runs that produce outputs, a date card is required. This card has the previous month and year punched in full in columns 1-20, left justified, and the current month and year in columns 21-40, left justified. Columns 46-55 contain the month and year number (e.g., 0165) for the previous month with the present month and year in columns 56-65.

3. Index Cards

When the card for the last issue in a volume is punched, a card for the index of that volume is also punched. Columns 1-5 contain the title code. Columns 6-45 and 46-75 contain the words "Index For" and the appropriate title. In columns 80-83 is the volume number. Column 85 has the number "7." When the index is received, separately or contained in an issue, this card should be entered as a Transaction Card.

4. Last Cards

A "last card" is also required to stop the process of the computer programs. This card has 9's punched in the first 10 columns.

5.     Routing File Cards

A routing list for the serials is available from the computer. For this listing, a card for each recipient of a serial must be punched. Columns 1-5 contain the title code of the serial. Columns 11-40 contain the name of the recipient. Two rows are provided for the address of each recipient. The first row of the address is punched in columns 46-65; the second row in columns 66-75. An asterisk is punched in column 10 to start a list for each issue to be routed. This list will continue printing the names from the cards until another plus is detached or the title code changes. Columns 76-79 contain the sequence number of the card under its title code. Blocks of 10 spaces are left between sequence numbers to allow additions to the file.

6.     Counter Resetting Cards

Three counters in the computer, referred to as NRCT, GRCT, and ISSREC, keep track respectively of the number of issues published in a volume, the number published since the last binding, and the number received since the last binding. When the counting in any of these three areas is complete, the appropriate counter must be reset to zero in preparation for starting a new count. This is done by

supplying a counter resetting card. This card contains the title code in columns 1-5. Zeros are punched in columns 6-7 for the ISSREC counter, in columns 8-9 for the GRCT counter, and in columns 10-11 for the NRCT counter. An index indicator\* is contained in column 12. An "8" is punched in column 35. This card is then entered following other cards of the same title code for normal computer operations.

(2) Outputs

From these records, the computer programs of the Serials Processing Program produce the following outputs:

1. Cumulative Serial Holdings

From the master file, a cumulative list of serial holdings is printed as shown in Appendix C-2. This is an alphabetical listing of titles, including for each title a record of volumes and years the title was held by the Information Division, whether it is bound or unbound, its storage location, and notes as to change of titles, ceased publication, and special procurement problems. The list provides to users a centralized checklist of what is

---

\* On each serial record is an index indicator. A "2" in this indicator means the index card for a volume has been received. A "1" means the serial is due to be bound, but the index has not been received. A "3" means binding is overdue, and the index has been received.

available in the Information Division and also provides the Division staff with data to answer queries concerning the collection.

## 2. Serial Control Cards

At the beginning of each month, the Information Division receives from the computer section a set of punched cards, as shown in Appendix C-3, representing the issues of periodicals that are to be received that month. The cards are based on a frequency code built into the master file indicating frequency and expected dates of the individual issues. As each issue is received, the card for that issue is pulled from the set and returned to the computer section where it is used for publishing the Cumulative Monthly Accessions List. The cards that have not been pulled by the end of the month form the basis of a recall list that is used to notify suppliers of the shortages.

## 3. Serial Expiration List

The Serial Expiration List, illustrated in Appendix C-4, is a computer listing of periodical subscriptions due to expire and is used to initiate renewals. The list

is arranged by renewal date and includes the supplier and titles in alphabetical order. The division that receives the periodical is also indicated as are the original purchase order number and item number of the title. When all the titles on a list are renewed, the list is then used to update automatically the master files.

4. Serial Supplier List

To aid the Information Division both in placing new subscriptions and renewing old ones, a Serial Supplier List (Appendix C-5) is made that includes all the suppliers, their complete addresses, titles of the periodicals received from each supplier, division of Fort Detrick to which the periodical is to be forwarded, and cost of the periodical.

5. First Copies List

When the first issue of a new periodical is received in the Information Division, this information is provided to the computer via EAM punched cards prepared for the new issue. A First Copies List (Appendix C-6) is then printed monthly by the computer for new periodicals, giving title,

issue, and date. This list is used for receipt reports and subscription payments. The punched cards are also used to update the master file.

6. Serial Routing List

For each expected issue, the computer prints out monthly (or otherwise as required) a Serial Routing List giving the names and addresses of users who wish to see the issue. When the issue is received, this list is attached and circulated with it.

7. Cumulative Monthly Accessions List

Punched cards, pulled upon receipt of periodicals during the month, are returned at the end of the month for a computer printout of the Cumulative Monthly Accessions List. This list, as shown in Appendix C-7, is arranged alphabetically by title and indicates the volume number, issue number, and date received. The punched cards are then used to update the master file.

8. Binding List

The Binding List is produced monthly when the master file indicates that all expected issues and indices

of completed volumes have been received. The list is arranged alphabetically by title with the volume number and number of copies to be bound indicated. It is used by the Information Division staff to pull appropriate issues for forwarding to the bindery.

#### 4. RETROSPECTIVE SEARCH FILE PROCESSING

Approximately 8,000 documents, consisting of Fort Detrick and contractor reports, have been indexed by accession number and coded descriptors and placed in a mechanized Retrospective Search File for machine search and retrieval procedures. The index and the subject term thesaurus were each entered on paper tape by a contractor, and these two tapes form the inputs to the mechanized file in the UNIVAC SS II-90. The thesaurus was developed from interviews with Detrick staff members, other thesauri, the open literature, and the document indexing process. Three pages from corresponding sections of the thesaurus are shown in Appendix D-1. The first two sections consist of descriptors structured by levels of subject generality and the third lists descriptors alphabetically, giving their corresponding location in the first part.

##### (1) Maintenance and Updating

The steps involved in maintaining and updating the Retrospective Search File are as follows.

1. Input Procedures

- (1) New document references are added to the file by preparing a punched paper tape called a correction tape.

The tape will contain a five-digit accession number followed by five spaces. Then the five-digit numerical descriptor codes will follow, each separated by a comma. The last descriptor pertaining to an accession number will be followed by two carriage returns and the next entry (if any). This format is the same as that used in the original file creation.

- (2) An existing document entry may be replaced by punching the new entry on the correction tape in the same format described in step 1.
- (3) If a reference is to be deleted, the correction tape will be supplied with only the accession number of the reference. It is not necessary to arrange the tape in accession number order in steps 1, 2, or 3.
- (4) When the correction tape is completed, it is ready to be applied to the computer for updating the Retrospective Search File. The computer process is described in the Program System Data section.
- (5) Thesaurus additions are punched on a correction tape that is separate from the document reference correction tape. Its format is the five-digit numerical descriptor code, followed by five spaces, followed by the English descriptor. If the descriptor is more than one word, each word is separated by a space. Each code - descriptor entry is separated from the next by two carriage returns.

- (6) A thesaurus entry already on the file may be completely replaced with a new entry by punching the entry on the correction tape in the same format described in step 5.
- (7) To delete an existing thesaurus entry, only the numerical code of the descriptor to be deleted is punched.

## 2. Outputs<sup>\*</sup>

### (1) Sequential Accessions List

This form of accessions list is produced each time new document references are added to the mechanized file. It is sequential by accession number and is an index of new accession numbers with document descriptor terms. Appendix D-2 is an example of this list.

### (2) Sequential Accessions Catalog

This catalog is similar to the Sequential Accessions List except that it is a listing of all documents in the file.

### (3) Inverted Accessions List

This accessions list is the same as the Sequential Accessions List except that new documents are listed by descriptor terms rather than accession numbers. Thus it forms an index of subject terms cross-referenced to accession numbers. An example is shown in Appendix D-3.

### (4) Inverted Accessions Catalog

The Inverted Accessions Catalog is arranged in the same manner as the Inverted Accessions List except that it is a complete listing of old as well as new accessions. It is essentially the subject catalog of all reports in the Information Division

\* None are fully operational.

collection and allows retrospective subject term searches of material incorporated into the system. As in the case of the Inverted Accessions List, the subject being searched leads to accession numbers by which reports can be withdrawn from the Division collection. The catalog is produced every three months.

(2) Retrospective Search and Retrieval

To illustrate the search and retrieval system, the Technical Information Division has given the following example:

"Consider the case of a scientist coming to the Library looking for information as background for research. His initial statement is 'I need information on culturing *Brucella* organisms.' After discussion with the librarian, the finalized question which enables the librarian to best serve the scientist's need is as follows: What procedures have been used at BioLabs for the identification of *Brucella suis*, excluding work in the field? This natural language question must then be converted by the librarian to the form required by the computer system. On the paper tape fed into the computer, only descriptor codes are used. However, we will show the English language descriptors here. The requirements determined by the librarian are: The document must contain *Brucella suis*, and in addition, it must contain at least one of detection, identification, isolation, differential, or culture. The document will be

excluded from consideration if it contains reference to field tests and/or field operations. This, then, constitutes a 'typical' request and is the basis for our demonstration of the information retrieval system."

In general, the following types of search questions may be accommodated by the computer program for retrieving document references contained in the Retrospective Search File.

1. (A, B, C, . . . n) A request for all documents having all descriptors, A and B and C, etc., (maximum of 20) appearing together.
2. (x, D, E, F, . . . n) A request for all documents having x or more (maximum of 5) of D, E, F, etc., appearing together. For example, if x is given by the requester as 2, then the request is for any two of D, E, F, etc., (i.e., D and E, or D and F, or E and F.)
3. (-I, J, . . . n) A request for documents not having descriptors I or J or etc., appearing.
4. (-x, K, L, M, . . . n) A request for documents not having x or more (maximum of 5) of K, L, M, etc., appearing together as in item 2 above.

The above criteria may be assembled together as desired, but only in an AND relationship. For example, the specification (A and B and C) and (2 of D, E, or F) is allowable, but (A and B and C) or (2 of D, E, or F) is not allowed in a single search.

The latter specification would require two independent searches: first excluding the second specification, and the second excluding the first. Note that multiple searches, since they are mutually independent, may result in redundant selections.

1. Input Procedures

The following describes the search procedure:

- (1) The requester submits his name, organization, and search specification.
- (2) The requester's search specification is reduced to descriptors in the form described above. The query format is fixed as indicated, i. e., all descriptors which MUST be associated with the document are recorded first, then the either/or combinations preceded by the number of permissible combinations, and finally the negative groupings with applicable combination numbers. The first category may include up to 20 descriptors, the second up to 10 combinations of no more than 5 descriptors, the next, which is the first part of the negative grouping, may have up to 20 individual descriptors, and the last part of the negative group may have up to 10 combinations of no more than 5 descriptors.
- (3) The refined request is punched on paper tape in the form indicated in Appendix D-4 with an ampersand, request number, name and address of the requester, and other desired information. The above must be followed by two carriage returns. Next the MUST descriptors follow without punctuation of any kind. The

limiting number comes next with its associated descriptors. The limiting number must be preceded by a slash and followed by a comma. After the comma, the descriptors follow without punctuation. At the end of a group of descriptors will be a period. If there is another group, it starts with the limiting number following the period.

Once all groupings of this nature are entered, it is time to enter the negation descriptors preceded by a dash. Following the dash are the single negation descriptors. Next comes the limiting number preceded by a slash and followed by a comma. After the comma, the descriptors follow without punctuation. At the end of a group of descriptors will be a period. If there are more groups, each the limiting number following the period. The last group will be followed by two carriage returns. Each descriptor (letter in the example) is replaced with its five-digit numerical code. If more than one search request is listed, each is separated from the next by two carriage returns. The final search request is followed by two carriage returns and a stop code.

- (4) The prepared paper tape is then applied to the computer where the information is run with the stored document descriptor file to determine accession numbers of documents which meet all of the specified conditions.

## 2. Output

At the end of the program, a listing of these numbers is printed out with the requester's name and organization as shown in Appendix D-5. If more than one search request is involved, the accession numbers for each request will be

listed separately. The list or selected documents is then delivered to the requester.

5. ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED OR DEVELOPED  
FOR MECHANIZATION

The SDI system is expected to grow from the present 40 participants to about 350, and information from Biological Abstracts and similar organizations will be added to the input citation files.

A Technical Effort Locator File will be established for on-post workers, with effort profiles to be based on the subject term thesaurus. DoD Form 1498 will be used for reporting R&D project activity. This form will include descriptors, subject, objective, approach, results, funding, man-years expended, etc.

produce demand and recurring bibliographies, and produce a book catalog divided by accession number, descriptor, corporate author, and personal author, etc. (The Information Division estimates that working with DDC saves them three man-years. As the relationship and service improves, greater savings are anticipated.)

When DDC begins operation of an SDI program, the Information Division is planning to send taped interest profiles of Fort Detrick personnel for inclusion in the DDC dissemination.

A plan for mechanizing the handling of monographs will await Library of Congress work in this area. The system is anticipated to be similar to the Serials Processing System.

The Information Division hopes to acquire a chemical symbol producing typewriter that can be driven by the computer printout program.

Plans have been made to expand the mechanized document record to include title, abstract, author, etc., and not to use such functions as carriage returns, spaces, punctuations, etc., but rather to use codes to accomplish segregation.

### III. PROGRAM SYSTEM DATA

#### I. SDI

The SDI System compares a participant's interest profile tags to the MEDLARS Dictionary (MESH) and Retrieved Citation File Tapes. Each month, matches meeting criteria specified by a user are printed together on a form for the user's notification. Response to this notification is fed back to update the user's interest profile. Figure 2 is a system diagram of the SDI System.

#### (1) Major Files

##### 1. Interest Profile Tape File

The format for one record of this file is shown in Appendix E-1. There is at least one record per participant and these are sorted on the tape by participant number. If a participant's interest tags exceed the allotted space, a continuation is started on a second record at 003.

##### 2. Profile Action Cards

These cards are the main input to the Interest Profile Update run. They are updated on a continuing basis as new cards are supplied from the Technical Information Division. Appendix B-2 contains a complete description of these cards.

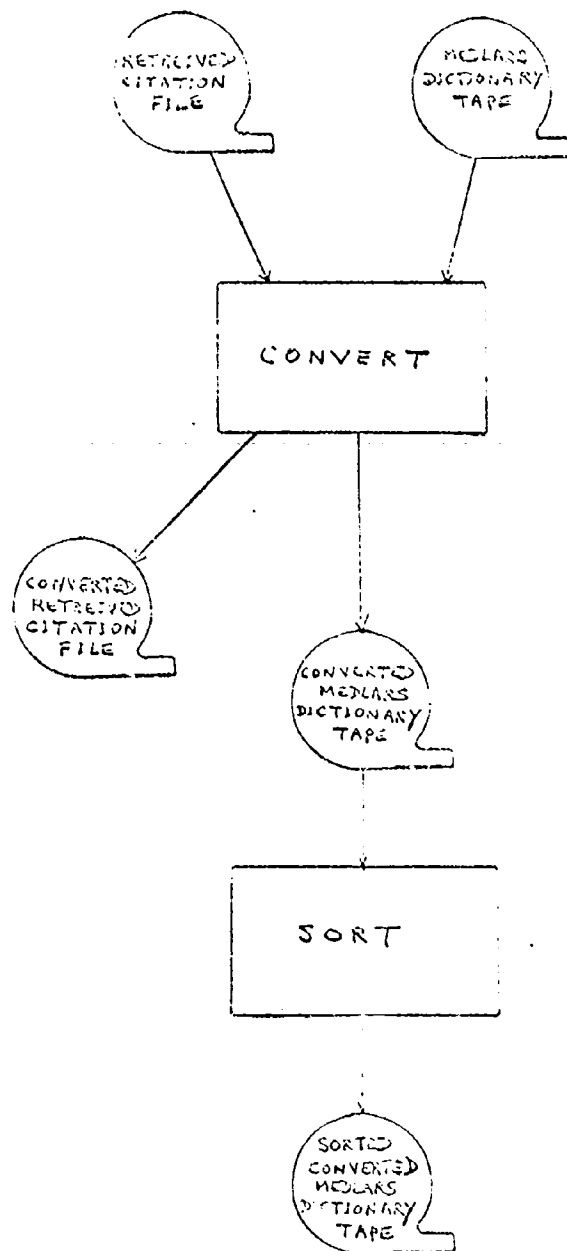


FIGURE 6  
SDI System

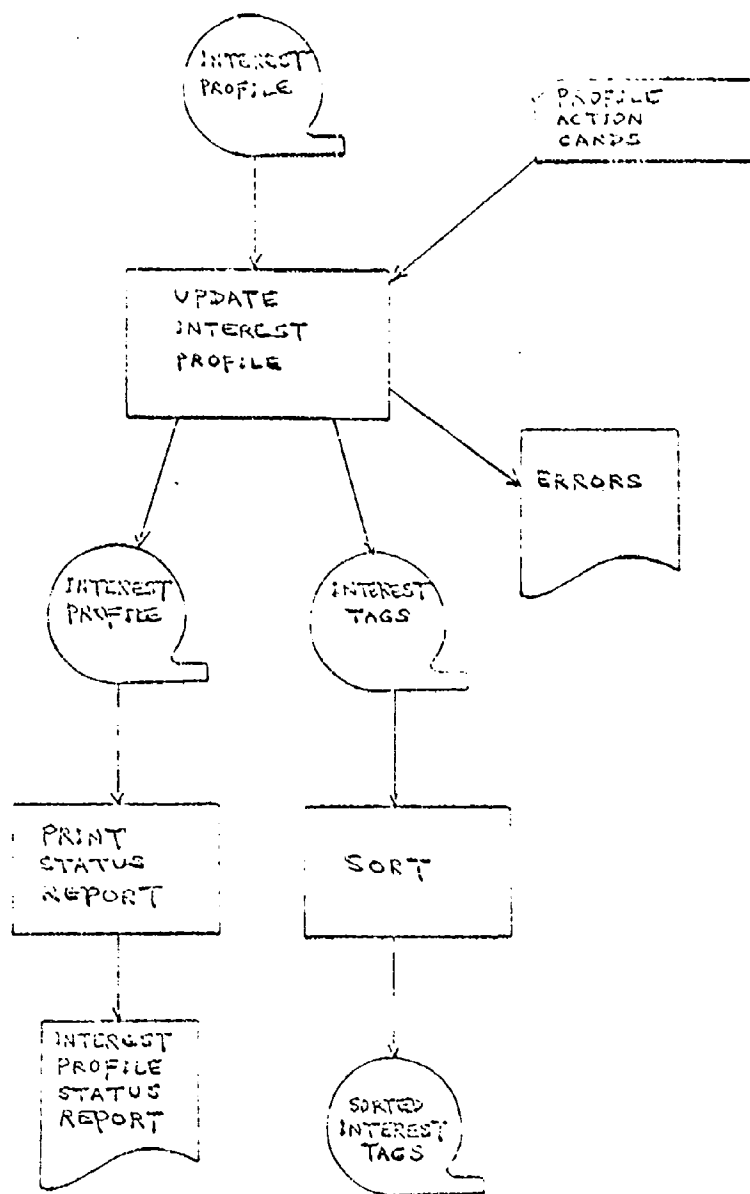


FIGURE 2 (continued)

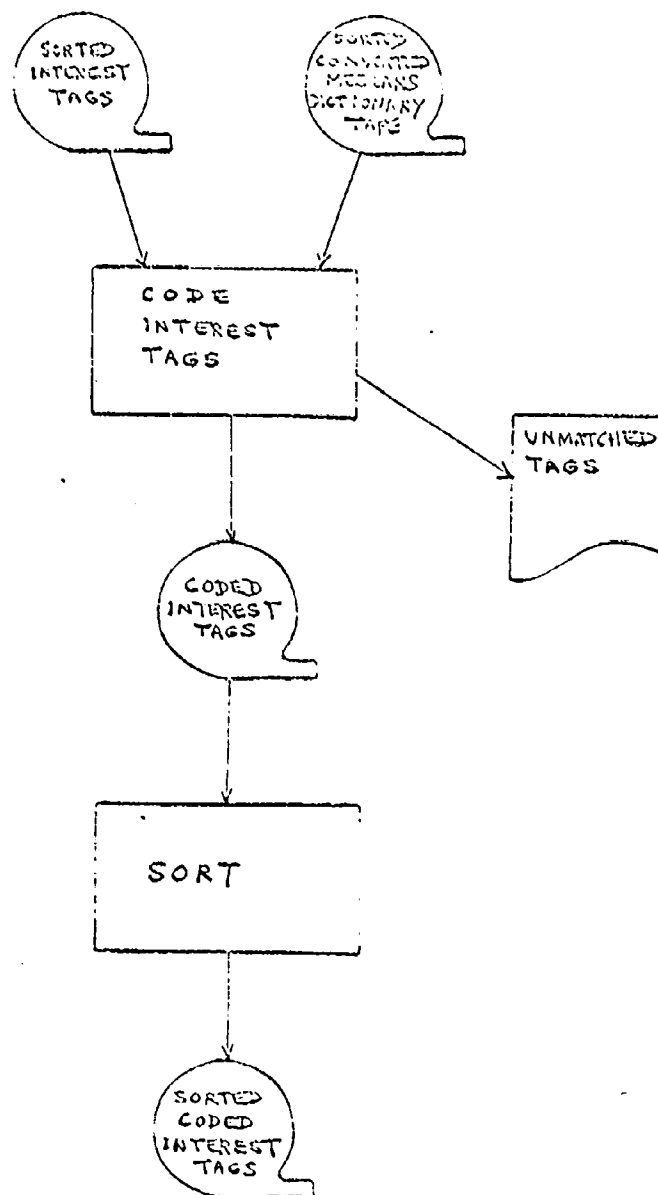


FIGURE 2 (continued)

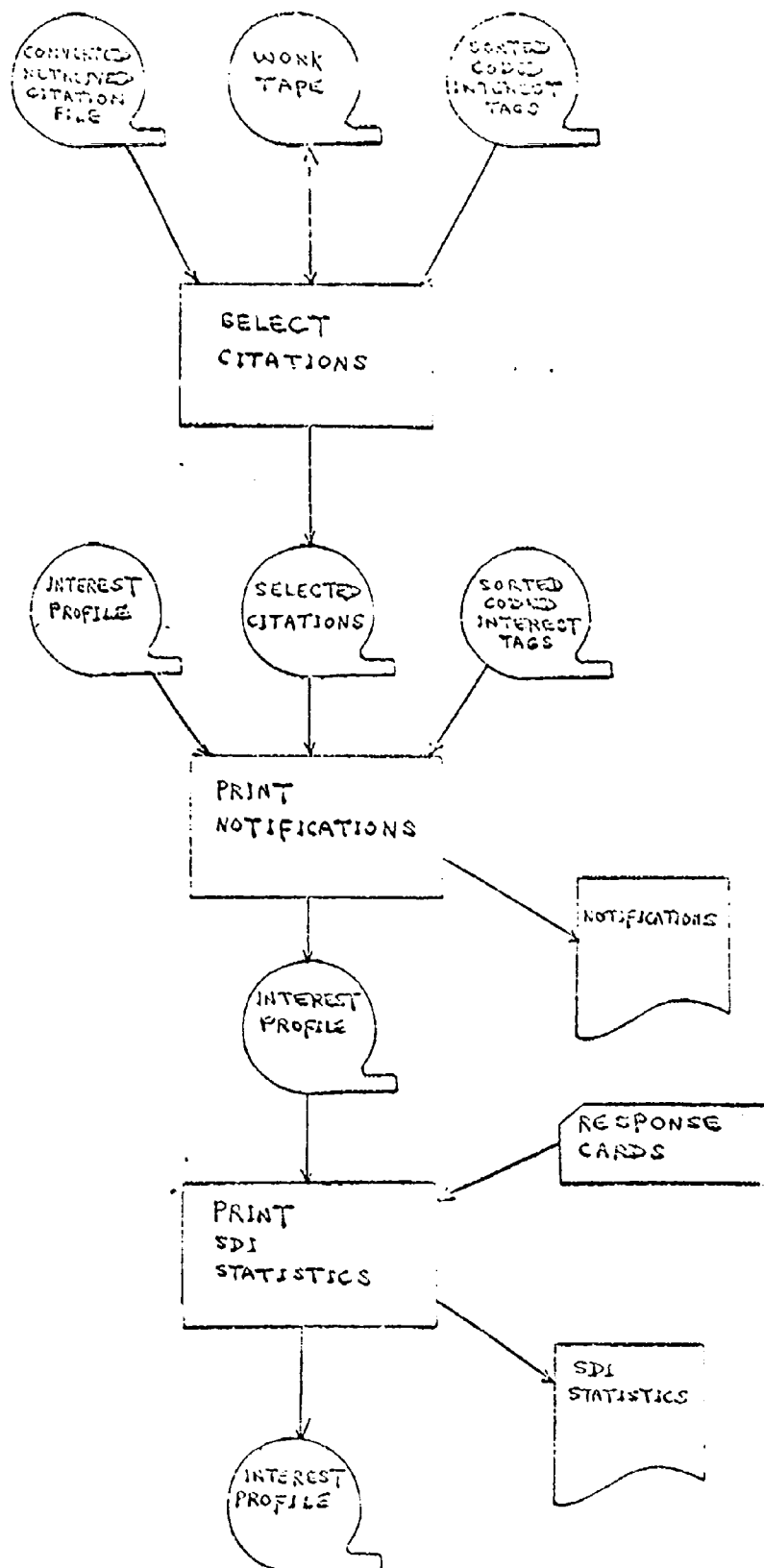


FIGURE 2 (continued)

3. Interest Tags Tape File

This file is an output of the Interest Profile Update run. It is also the main input to the remaining parts of the SDI program. A format of one record is shown in Appendix E-2.

4. MEDLARS Dictionary Tape File

The Dictionary Tape is provided yearly by the National Library of Medicine as a list of proper main subject headings. It is used to identify errors in the Interest Tags File. Its format must be converted from seven records per block (720-character block) to ten records per block (1,000-character block). Appendix E-3 illustrates the record format.

5. Retrieved Citation File Tape

This tape is received monthly from MEDLARS, and its information is used as the second main input to the Select Citations Run. It requires conversion from one record per 720-character block to two 500-character records per 1000-character block. A record format is illustrated in Appendix E-4.

6. Coded Interest Tags File

The Interest Tags Tape File and the MEDLARS Dictionary Tape File are combined to produce the Coded Interest Tags File. The format of this file is shown in Appendix E-5.

7. Selected Citations File

This file is the output of the Select Citations run. It is the input to the Print run which produces the selected citation listing for the participant whose Profile Action Cards were used earlier in the program. The format of the file is shown in Appendix E-6.

(2) Programs

and the Dictionary with seven 100-character records per block is changed to ten 100-character records per block. Generally, one record equates to one citation, although in the case of a large citation, more than one record may be required.

2. Sort Converted MEDLARS Dictionary Tape

This run sorts the Dictionary Tape records (10 records/block; 10 blocks/tape) into sequence by English main heading of the medical subjects. The sort program used has fixed parameters and is common to all sort runs on the SDI Master Instruction Tape.

3. Update Interest Profile

4. Print Interest Profile Status Reports

This program utilizes the current Interest Profile Tape and a date card (date punched in columns 1-20) to point out a list containing participant number, name, and address, languages, and interest tags. Appendix E-9 illustrates this run.

5. Sort Interest Tags

Utilizing the common sort program, this run sorts the tapes of interest tags generated in the Update Interest Profile program into sequence by English interest tag. Each tape information block contains 10 records.

6. Code Interest Tags

#### 8. Select Citations

This program matches the sorted coded Interest Tag File tape against the Retrieved Citation File tape to select citations based on the WEIGHT method of selection. One or more comparison passes will be made depending upon whether the total number of user interest tags is less or greater than four hundred. Output of this program will be the Selected Citation File tape. For each selected citation (record number 1), a record will be written (record number 2) containing the interest tag codes that caused the selection.

#### 9. Print Notifications

This run combines the tapes of the user's Interest Profile, the Selected Citations, and the Sorted Coded Interest Tags to produce a new tape of the Interest Profile updated with the number of notifications printed, and a printed notification of selected citation.

10. Print SDI System Statistics

This program prints a report of the number of notifications in the current period, the number of responses (classed by type) for the last period, and the total notification and responses to date. In addition, it updates the Interest Profile for use in the next SDI cycle. Inputs to this program are the updated Interest Profile from the notification program, the response cards, and a date card.

2. SERIALS PROCESSING SYSTEM (Detailed flow charts for these programs may be found in Bibliographic Reference 3.)

The Serial Processing System was devised to mechanize the recording and control of serial publications. Twelve modular programs are employed using punched cards input, magnetic tape for master file

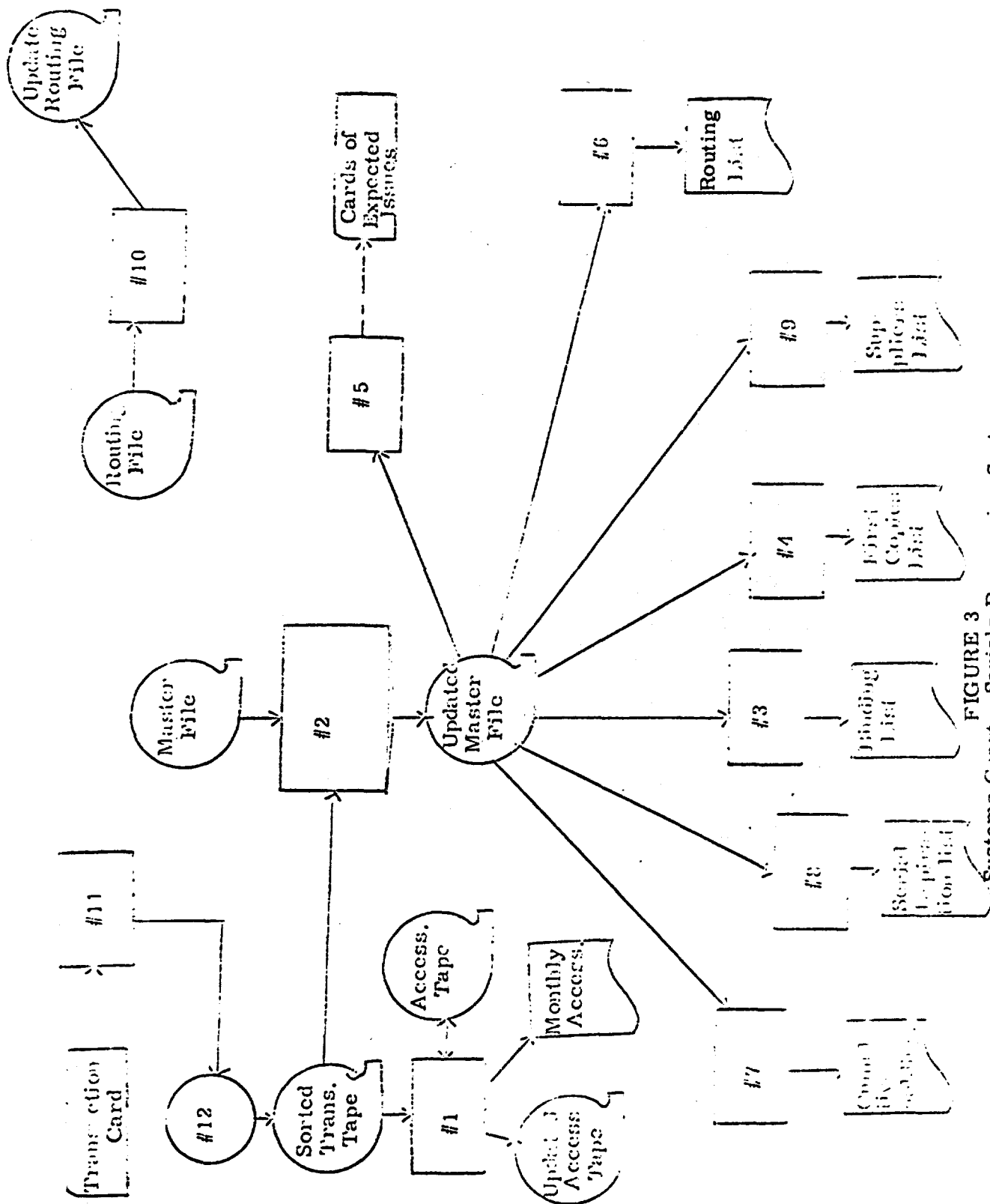
(1) Major Files

Appendix F-1 illustrates the various tape files used with the runs. All programs are on a master instruction tape, titled the "Systems Tape." The main data file is contained on the "Master Tape" which is updated by the "Transaction Tape." The formats for these files are illustrated in Appendix F-2.

(2) Programs

Figure 3 is a system diagram relating the following 12 programs

1. Cumulative Monthly Serials Accessions



3. Print Binding List

A list of serials due to be bound is produced in this program from information contained in the updated master file.

4. Issues Received Beyond Expiration Date

The purpose of this run is to produce from the updated master file a page-printed list of subscriptions, the first copy of which has been received, containing the contractor's name, address, the P. O. number, the title and the location.

5. Cards of Expected Issues

7. Cumulative Serials Holdings

This run produces a printed cumulative list of the Informa Division's holdings, giving title, location, frequency, issue, and cross-reference information, as recorded on the master file.

8. Serial Expiration List

This run produces a printed list of serials showing renewal date, contractor, P. O. number, title, and location.

9. Serial Supplier List

11. Edit Transactions

This program loads and edits the transaction cards on tape to be used later to update the master file.

12. Sort Transaction Tape

This run sorts the loaded transaction tape produced by program number 11.

Programs 1 through 6 represent a primary update program grouping which is run only once a month to preserve accurate counter data. Appendix D-4 illustrates the tape configuration for this program group. Programs 7, 8 and 9, on the other hand, do not effect the record fields and therefore may be used any time. Programs 1

(4) Label and date new monthly accessions and master file tapes and save for next month's run as well as routing list tape. Interpret punched cards and send to Technical Information Division.

### 3. RETROSPECTIVE SEARCH FILE

The Retrospective Search Program produces a list of pertinent bibliographic document references in response to query descriptors loaded into the computer. Operations with the Search Program may be separated into three areas:

- . Loading and updating the thesaurus file
- . Loading and updating the document file
- . Retrospective searching

<u>Word Number</u>	<u>Information (10 Digits)</u>	<u>Form</u>
1	Descriptor Code	Numeric
2	Descriptor	Alphabetic
9	Descriptor	Alphabetic
10	Total Number of Accession Numbers	Numeric
11	Continuation Code	Numeric
12	Accession No. -Accession No.	Numeric
48	Accession No. -Accession No.	Numeric

author, and corporate author for about 10,000 documents.

There are 3 abbreviated citations per magnetic tape block.

(Each magnetic tape block has a capacity of 1,000 alphabetic characters.) 330 characters are required for an abbreviated citation.

3. Unit Record Citation File

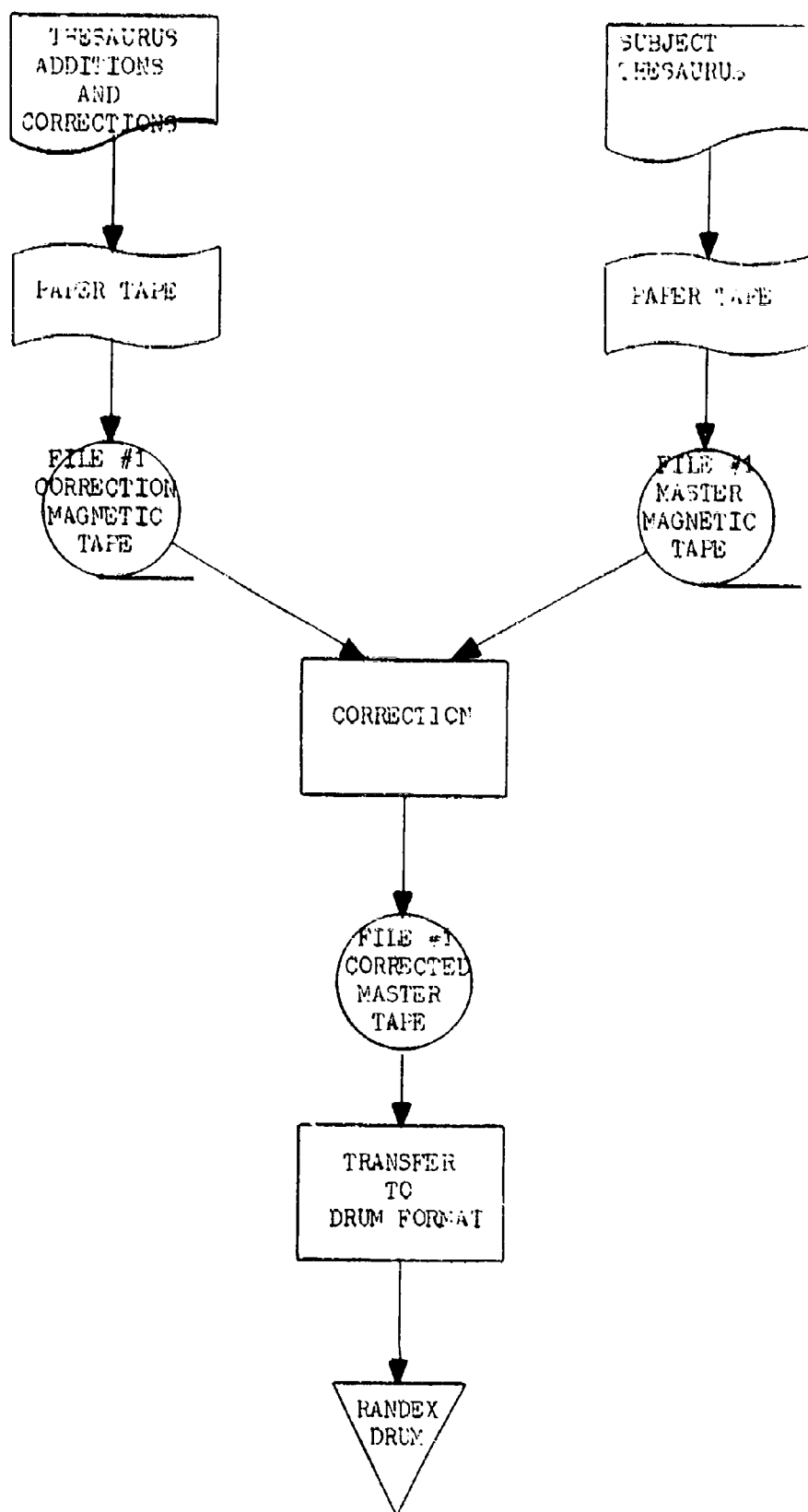
This file consists of 10 reels of tape containing information in the format shown in Appendix G. The file will be used when maximum information is required.

If there is an odd number of descriptor codes, the last LSD's (least significant digits) will contain all 9's. The record length is 25 words of which up to 24 may be used for the descriptor codes. Unused words will be set to zeros.

(2) Programs

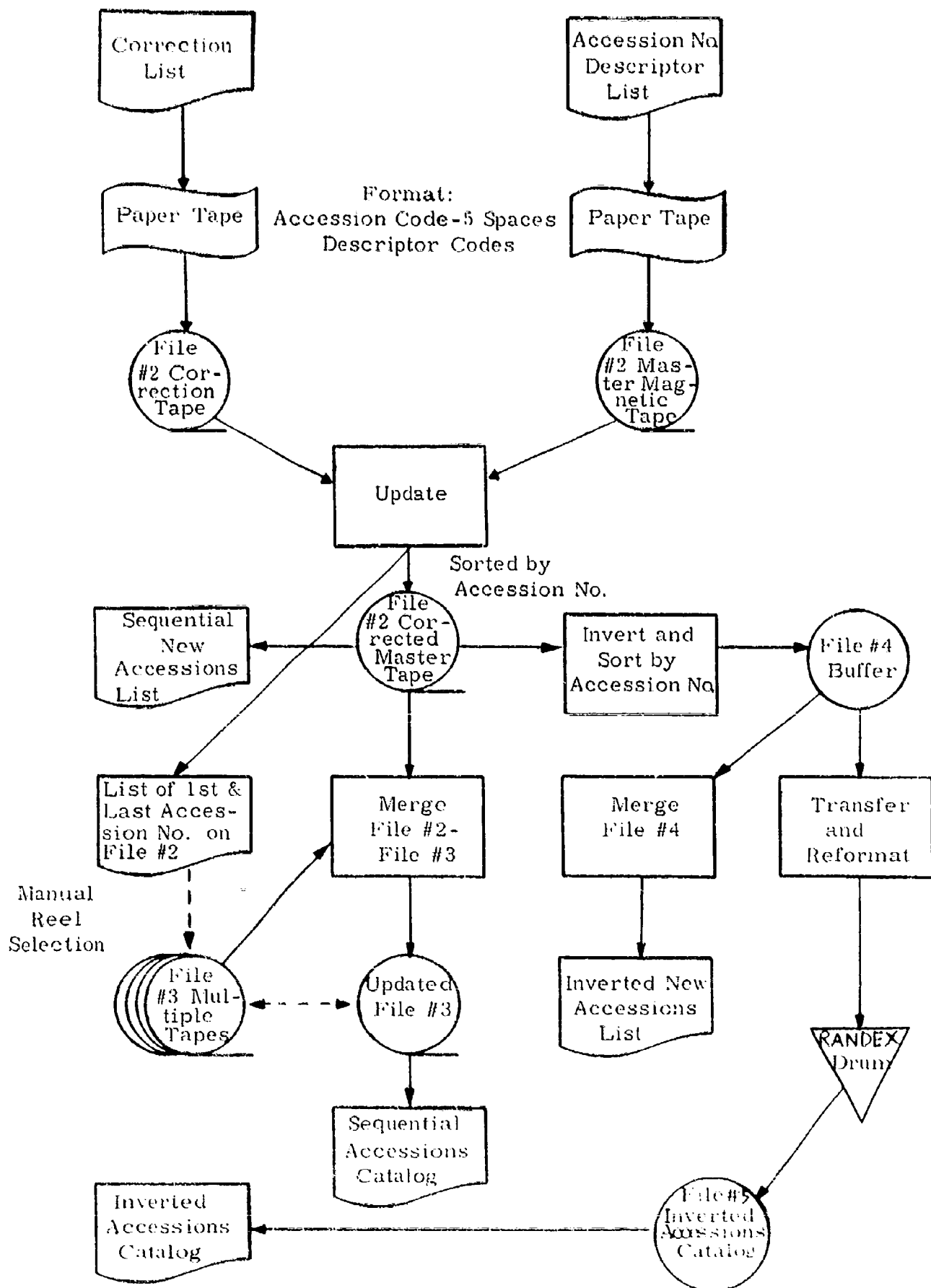
1. Loading and Updating the Thesaurus

Figure 4 illustrates this program. Paper tape, containing the complete thesaurus in the format described in the Mechanization Section, is converted in the computer onto a work tape labeled Master File #1. During the transfer, carriage returns are deleted and the format is changed to groups of five words. The first word contains the descriptor code in the five MSD



Corrections or additions may be made to the file at this point by inputting the paper correction onto a work tape labeled Correction File #1. The reprocessing in the transfer is the same as in the case of the Master File #1. If an entire record is to be deleted, only the descriptor code appears on the correction tape. A descriptor code/descriptor combination on the correction tape, however, will replace an existing record on the master, or else will be inserted as an addition if the same code does not already exist on the master.

The results of the loading and correcting operation are transferred to a Corrected Master File #1 for buffering and subsequent loading on the RANDEX Drum. Using the File #1 format and the first drum segment, the two LSD's of the code are equated to the drum sector; the third digit, to the LSD of the track, and the two MSD's taken together, specify the block with the track MSD equal to zero or one depending upon whether the two code MSD's are equal to or less than five or are



carriage returns are deleted, a sort by accession number takes place, and the format is changed. The magnetic tape format has the accession number in the five MSD's with five zeros in the LSD's of the first word. The following words each contain two descriptor codes up to a maximum of 48 codes per record. If an odd number of descriptor codes is used, the last code will occupy the MSD's of the word and 9's will be placed in the LSD's. Unused words in a record will be recorded as machine code zero.

Correction may be made to this file in a fashion similar to the Master File #1. The prepared correction tape is transferred onto Correction File #2 magnetic tape and processed with the master tape. The master record will be replaced if the correction record is an accession number followed by descriptor codes. If only the accession number appears on the correction file, the master record of this accession number is deleted.

to the main memory. The total number of accession numbers is computed and stored. The proper drum address is then located, and the total accession number count and list of new accession numbers are stored on the drum.

Each new File #2 is sorted with File #3 to produce an updated File #3. A printout of the first and last accession numbers on File #2, which occurred during the correction process, is used to manually select which of the File #3 tape reels is to be updated.

File #4 is generated by inverting File #2 so that the accession number and the descriptor code are combined into a single 10-digit number for each descriptor with the descriptor code appearing first in the MSD. A sort is then made by numerical sequence. File #4 is then printed out, forming a listing of new accessions arranged by the applicable descriptor code. The printed descriptor, which consists of a maximum of 40 characters, is followed by the accession numbers, each separated

Every three months, the entire RANDEN record is transferred to work tape labeled File #5 and used to produce a complete inverted accessions catalog. Also, a serial listing of new accessions may be produced from File #2 containing the accession number followed by the descriptor codes. Each printed line of this listing can have 14 descriptor codes, each separated by three spaces.

3. Retrospective Searching

A request for search and retrieval of document references in a specified subject area is supplied on paper tape. The request will include the requester's search criteria and his name and organization. The search criteria are made up of from one to four types of coded specifications related to each other by an AND function. These are:

Type A1: AND specification

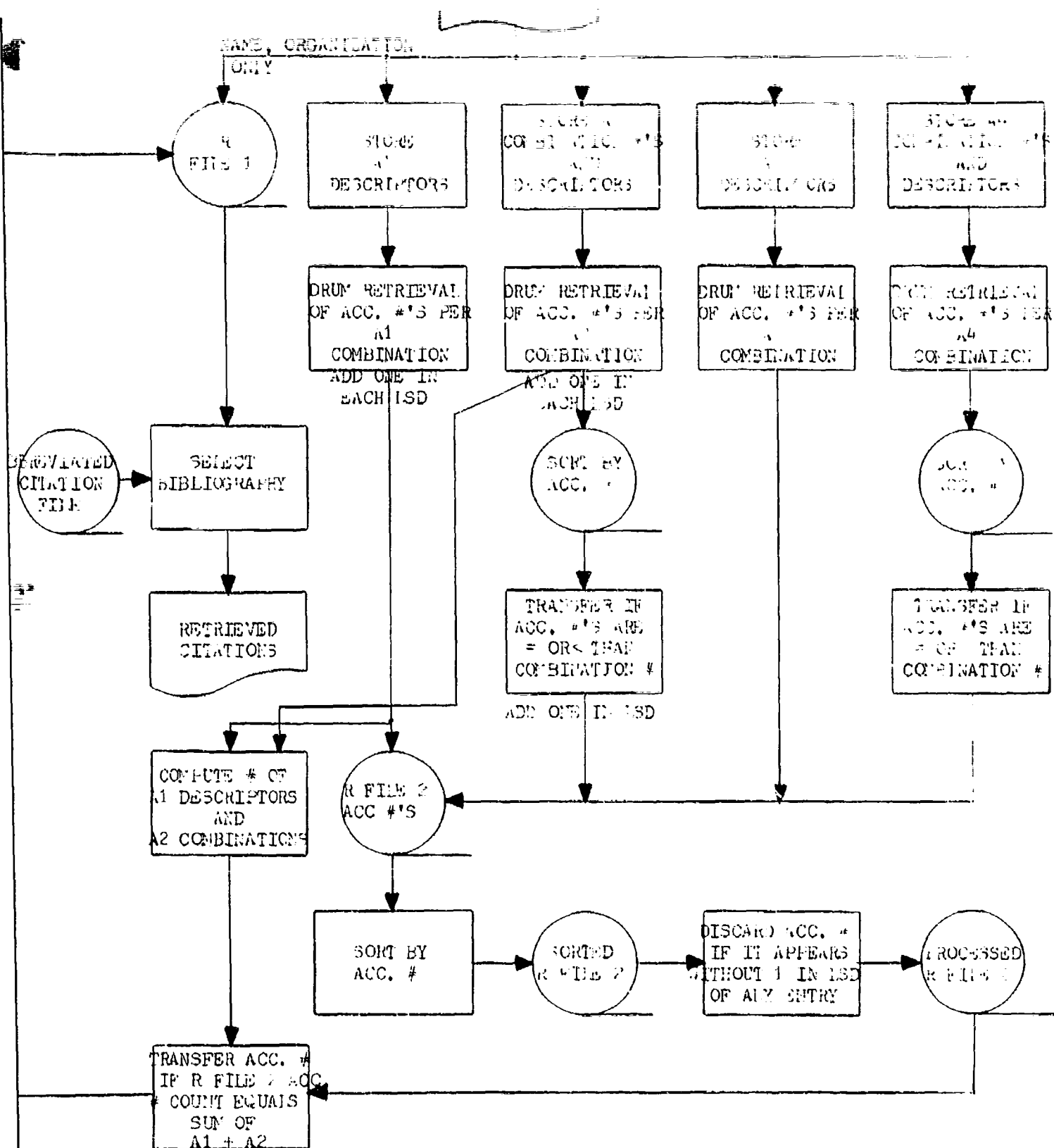
</

This number is the combination number which indicates the number of descriptors to be taken together in the OR specification, (e.g., 2, D, E, F - DE OR DF OR EF).

The paper tape is fed into the computer, and the program operates as illustrated in Figure 6 in the following manner:

- (1) Name and organization of the requester is placed on a magnetic tape designated R File 1.
- (2) The one to four types of specifications in the criteria are stored respectively in four individual sections of memory as follows:

Area A1 (AND) -- one descriptor code per word; last descriptor followed by a sentinel code. The total number of descriptors is computed



Area A3 (NAND)--one descriptor per word.  
last descriptor followed by a sentinel code.

Area A4 (NOR)--one specification and  
combination number per unit stored in the  
same fashion as Area A2.

(3) All accession numbers associated with the first  
descriptor in A1 are transferred to a magnetic tape  
designated R File 2--one accession number per MSD  
of each tape word. This is repeated for all descriptors  
in A1. At the time of the transfer, a one is placed  
in the LSD of each word.

(4) The accession numbers associated with each of  
the descriptors for the first unit of A2 are transferred  
to an

this case, the accession number has a one inserted in its LSD and is transferred to R File 2. The remaining units in A2 are processed in the same manner.

(5) The accession numbers associated with the descriptors in A3 are transferred from the RANDEN Drum and processed in the same manner as for A1 in item (2) above. The numbers, however, will not have a one inserted in the LSD during transferral to R File 2.

(6) The accession numbers associated with the A4 units will be handled as in the case of the A2 units described in item (4) above. However, a one code will not be inserted during the transferral process.

(7) Final selection then occurs in the following manner:</

3. For the remaining accession numbers, the number of times a number is recorded will be compared to the total descriptor count, which is equal to the sum of A1 descriptors and A2 units. If the count and the number of times are equal, which means the first two parts of the criteria (A1 and A2) are satisfied, the accession number is transferred to R File 1, along with the name and organization of the requester. If the requester has requested additional searches, a sentinel code inserted in R File 1 separates the resulting accession numbers corresponding to the different search criteria.

(8) The final step is to run the selected accession numbers with the Abbreviated Citation File to produce the selected listing including bibliographic information

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#### IV. EQUIPMENT, COSTS, AND EVALUATIONS

##### 1. EQUIPMENT

The Computer used for the three mechanized programs is Sperry Rand's UNIVAC SS-II 90 consisting of the following:

- . Central Processor with 1,280 word core storage, and magnetic drum with 5,000 word storage.
- . Card Reader/Punch (150 cards per minute).





The current level of participant selections from SDI citation notification is 50 percent. The Technical Information Division feels that a range of 40 to 80 percent limits extraneous material and provides the participant with the opportunity to expand his interests. Also a list of less than 100 citation notifications per month is considered an indication of a good profile.

The MEDLARS tapes differentiate between elementary versus advanced, and old versus new information, but they do not indicate whether the citations are general or specific. The later indication would be helpful to the participants in making their choices.

The SDI System is a useful tool in dissemination of current awareness type information. However, there is no indication that it is any substitute for browsing or retrospective searching. The Information Division feels that browsing encourages the development of ideas. The SDI System can relieve the participant of the time-consuming task of looking up new material, therefore permitting him more time for browsing.

The Technical Information Division believes that a good SDI System takes a long time to develop and refine and requires a scientist-to-scientist dialogue for its development. Thus the system developer must be nearly equivalent to a colleague of the participant, and the participant must be willing to give the necessary time to the development of his profile.

The use of the word "interest" in the SDI system is a poor choice. Good profiles actually tend to produce only needed information rather than interesting information.

Developing an SDI System participant profile often produces two by-products; a better understanding of the information needs of the job and a better definition of the area of research. It was determined that a participating researcher receiving a great deal of information tended to narrow the scope of his research.

A developed SDI System can also be used to determine individuals with mutual





## APPENDIX B

### SDI INPUT CARDS AND OUTPUTS







When an entire interest is deleted from the file, no other actions for that interest should be entered in the same run.

Only one action card should be entered for a specific tag during the run.

o,  
r/











APPENDIX C

SERIALS PROCESSING SYSTEM  
INPUT AND OUTPUTS

































































